



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78712

The Cell Research Institute

August 29, 1978

Mr. P. E. Haggerty
5455 Northbrook Drive
Dallas, TX 75220

Dear Mr. Haggerty:

In your kind reply to my letter of long ago, I can at least get off a note. I am enclosing copies of my letters to Dr. Lederberg and Dr. Seitz. But you, too, deserve a vote of thanks for taking on a very difficult task at a very difficult time and for your achievements in it.

I shall probably meet you at Joshua's installation, but before I do I would like to relate a tale about that boy whom I consider so highly. Years ago he took a very unstructured course of mine which I allowed him to do without the fancy prerequisites. For that departure from normal procedures I earned several demerits. At the end of the course, he wrote a paper which I thought was superb, but he was already displaying independent and adventurous thinking and it was quite unlike any other paper I ever received.

I was an untenured, young instructor, but somewhat tutored in the sort of behavior that is essential to progress in academic circles. I took the paper to one of the senior members in his department and asked him to read it. He did, and advised me to give it an "F." After two sleepless nights, I gave it an "A" and then I added a plus. As an upshot, I got a scorching letter from the professor and a notation that when the question of tenure came up he intended to vote against it. Fortunately, it never came up.

I don't think I taught Joshua anything, but he taught me some things. If not before, I'll see you on October 16.

Most cordially yours,

W. Gordon Whaley
Ashbel Smith Professor of Cellular Biology

rc

I met Ev. Witkin
in this course.

Matzke, ... / No: < '45